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all along the line, as well as thoroughly cultural, and to make industry educational in being helpful, developmental, and humanistic, as well as thoroughly efficient."

The author compels us to admit that industry for profit is at the basis of a large number of modern problems; he likewise carries us to the point where we must agree with him that education in some form is the only ultimate remedy for the situation. Whether the form of education which Mr. Henderson proposes is the right one, we are not prepared to say, but certainly the crux of his whole situation lies in the proper answer to this question.

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**Herter, C. A.** *Biological Aspects of Human Problems.* Pp. xvi, 344. Price, \$1.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1911.

This is a posthumous work of Dr. Herter who was Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics in Columbia University.

The volume is another indication of the growing recognition that many social phenomena have their causes in our physical organization. Quite in contrast to the book of M. Bergson, elsewhere reviewed in this issue, the problem of life is approached from the scientific side. With no attempt to decide which viewpoint the reader should hold, it must be recognized that Dr. Herter's own philosophy is materialistic. He believed that the idea of immortality was a logical outgrowth of the earlier attitude of man—an attempt as it were to escape death. Under present conditions, he holds such a conception unwarranted and unnecessary—as the same social results, as high ideals, could be gotten by a different method of teaching. Yet his materialism should not be confused with that type which is often condemned as self-seeking and in opposition to all the higher things. It is the belief of a man profoundly versed in chemistry and the nature of body changes. He visualizes thought as some chemical change not as supermaterial. It may well be that he has over-emphasized some of his observations. That he is correct in insisting that philosophy and social work must take into account these physical factors cannot be gainsaid.

In Book I—*The Animal Body as a Mechanism*—we are told in most instructive fashion how the body functions, how it starts and grows. As might be expected the author shows himself to have been a physician rather than a biologist for with brief mention of Mendel, Weissmann and the Hering-Semon hypothesis, there is little or no reference to recent studies of heredity. In Book II—*The Self-Preservation Instinct*, the chapter headings well indicate the contents: "The Instinct of Survival," "Defenses of the Body," "Self-Preservation and the Mental Life," "Death and Immortality." Book III—*The Sex Instinct*—treats of "Sex and the Individual," "Sex and Social Relations," "The Male and the Female Mind." The author believed that there are real differences in the minds of the two sexes. The *Fundamental Instincts in their Relation to Human Development* (Book IV) deals

with "The Arts and Religion," "Education and the Future of the Race," and "The Fruits of Education."

The latter part of the volume is not as systematic and complete, doubtless because the author did not finish his manuscript which here is rather fragmentary. As might be expected, too, his suggestions on social problems do not reveal the extensive knowledge characteristic of the earlier chapters. Many of his suggestions are most interesting. For instance, the suggestion that it would be worth while, for the sake of the race, for the government to make a long experiment to see what conditions favored longevity. He would like to see more attention paid to physical factors in marriage but fears that Anglo-Saxon notions will not permit the imposition of a physical certificate.

Recognizing frankly the shortcomings of the volume, it is one of tremendous interest and great value. It is simple, not technical, and will be of decided profit to all who are dealing with social subjects. It is to be hoped that other physicians will recognize as did Dr. Herter the necessity of educating the public at large as well as curing the sick.

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**Hull, G. H.** *Industrial Depressions.* Pp. xiv, 287. Price, \$2.95. New York: F. A. Stokes Company, 1911.

Numerous theories have from time to time been propounded to account for industrial depressions. Mr. Hull comes forward with a new one; that the "High Price of Construction is the real, original and underlying cause of the mysterious industrial depressions which have occurred in the industrial nations when these depressions have come in the absence of external and recognized causes."

In a sense there is some truth in this theory, but there are a few who would be willing to accord to this single factor the ultimate and controlling influence that is ascribed to it by Mr. Hull. It has long been recognized that the extraordinarily high prices paid for materials and labor during boom periods result almost inevitably in a reaction, but it is a mistake to assign the result to high prices of construction merely.

Mr. Hull has not been clear as to exactly what he means by the term "construction" throughout the book. Apparently, the term is intended usually to mean building construction, yet at other times, the context allows it to appear that other kinds of construction may also have been included.

Several of Mr. Hull's assertions are not borne out by the facts. The decline of 1900 which he has assigned to high prices of construction was influenced as well by the high prices in all quarters and by the more or less damaging effect exerted upon our export trade by the industrial and financial situation in Germany.

Another object lesson has been drawn from the decline of 1903 when, as Mr. Hull asserts, there was no financial panic or other external event of sufficient importance to bring any check to constructive industries, a state-